

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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manufacture of plastics mimic and interfere with human hormones and create the potential for problems with normal growth and development. The reason is that the body naturally makes hormones, which are chemical messengers, which are involved in practically every aspect of the bodily function, and particularly at key developmental stages for infants.

The particular products at issue are plasticizers and unfortunately have been used in infant products, along with many other products. They are recognized as hormone-disrupting chemicals. The plasticizers, the phthalates, are added to plastic to make them pliable, so they are found in teething rings, pacifiers, even the nipples of baby bottles. These chemicals are not bound to the plastic, but can be sucked out of the plastic by a baby and have been demonstrated to do that. What we do know is that the chemicals themselves are hormone mimickers: they act like hormones and are recognized like hormones in the human body, they can actually come out of the product and expose the baby to these chemicals. What we do not know for sure is that those exposures are leading to specific harms at this time.

The motion would be appropriate as an Ought Not to Pass vote for those people who think that we should take a precautionary approach when dealing with Maine infants. It is recognized that no other state has done that; however, an entire continent has. The European Union, starting in 1997, has restricted these products, and last year made the ban on these products permanent. Phthalates are not in infant toys, infant products, in the European Union. That covers 450 million people, an economy as sophisticated, as successful as our own. The fact that it has not been acted on here is unfortunate. Maine has an opportunity to do it for the first time. Regardless, we should keep an eye on these chemicals, the hormone-disrupting chemicals, and evaluate them and take appropriate action, particularly to protect the infants of Maine. Thank you very much.

The Chair ordered a division on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative JACKSON of Allagash **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

On motion of Representative FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, **TABLED** pending the motion of Representative MILLER of Somerville to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report and later today assigned. (Roll Call Ordered)

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Thursday, June 7, 2007, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (10) **Ought to Pass pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3327, subsection 4** - Minority (2) **Ought Not to Pass pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3327, subsection 4** - Committee on **UTILITIES AND ENERGY** on Bill "An Act To Stimulate Demand for Renewable Energy"

(H.P. 1356) (L.D. 1920)

TABLED - June 6, 2007 (Till Later Today) by Representative BLISS of South Portland.

PENDING - Motion of same Representative to **ACCEPT** the Majority **UGHT TO PASS pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3327, subsection 4** Report.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought to Pass pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3327, subsection 4** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

Under suspension of the rules, the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Representative PIEH of Bremen **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-516)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bremen, Representative Pieh.

Representative **PIEH**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I present this amendment to a bill around utilities and electricity generation, but it really does come from agriculture because it is about cow power: One cow will give you enough very green stuff to power a person. So, it is one cow equals one person, and when we were looking through it, we realized that this was not completely, clearly defined under the green power supply, so it is now written to include anaerobic digesters, and I think that you probably all know what that means. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Portland, Representative Bliss.

Representative **BLISS**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill was a Committee bill. It was created out of whole cloth by the Committee on Utilities and Energy, and I certainly have no objection to the floor amendment; I think that it absolutely makes sense.

This is a bill—we had previously determined that we would increase our renewable status in the state; this is a bill that is designed to give us a roadmap to how to get to that point, and to also emphasize to the people of Maine, the value of green power. I think that the floor amendment absolutely makes sense. What I am doing in rising is using this opportunity to acknowledge, unfortunately in his absence, the hard work that the Representative from Winslow did in crafting this legislation and helping us make sure that it did make sense, so I am really just using this as an opportunity for that purpose. But the amendment does make sense and ought to be included.

Subsequently, **House Amendment "A" (H-516)** was **ADOPTED**.

Under further suspension of the rules, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-516)** and sent for concurrence. **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

The Chair laid before the House the following item which was **TABLED** earlier in today's session:

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (12) **Ought Not to Pass** - Minority (1) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-483)** - Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act To Prevent Infant Exposure to Harmful Hormone-disrupting Substances"

(H.P. 636) (L.D. 837)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative FAIRCLOTH of Bangor pending the motion of Representative MILLER of Somerville to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report. (Roll Call Ordered)

Subsequently, Representative JACKSON of Allagash **WITHDREW** his **REQUEST** for a roll call.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.